

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0162

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS3

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, AO

SUBJECT: EX- KATANGAN GENDARMES IN ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY: GOVGEN HAS INFORMED US THAT EX- KATANGAN GENDARMES (KATGENS) DISTURBED OVER REPORTS OF INCREASED PRC PRESENCE/ INFLUENCE IN ZAIRE; LEADER OF KATGENS APPROACHED ANGOLAN HIERARCHY TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR 20,000 SUPPORTERS TO JOIN THOSE ALREADY IN ANGOLA PRESUMABLY TO PLAN COUNTER-MEASURES. REQUEST TURNED ASIDE BY GOVGEN. PRESUME REASON FOR GOVGEN' S REVELATION WAS HIS HOPE STORY WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH MOBUTU' S EARS AND CAUSE HIM TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON PRESENT COURSE - MEANING HIS APPARENT EFFORTS TO JOIN UPA AND MPLA AND " TURN TO LEFT" AS PERCEIVED BY GOP. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING DINNER AT MY HOME MARCH 13 FOR VISITING CABINDA GULF CHAIRMAN (FORMER PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON) VASCO GARIN, GOVGEN TOOK ME AND GARIN ASIDE TO RELATE FOLLOWING TALE:

A. ONE NATANAEL (PHONETIC) LEADER OF EX- KATGENS HAD RECENTLY SOUGHT AUDIENCE WITH GOVGEN TO DISCUSS " SECURITY" SITUATION IN ZAIRE. GOVGEN FIRST TRIED TO PAWN HIM OFF ON CINC LUZ CUNHA, WHO DECLINED TO SEE NATANAEL UNTIL AFTER GGVGEN HEARD HIS STORY.
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(COMMENT: THIS IS AN ODD INDICATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVGEN AND CINC. GOVGEN SAID LATTER DID IN FACT RECEIVE NATANAEL AFTER GOVGEN HAD FIRST SCREENED HIM, AND HAD REPORTED TO CINC. SUBSTANCE OF TWO CALLS BY NATANAEL APPARENTLY IDENTICAL.

B. NATANAEL IMPRESSED GOVGEN FAVORABLY. EDUCATED AND WELL-SPOKEN (FRENCH). PRESENTED WRITTEN AIDE MEMOIRE (IN FRENCH: GOVGEN WONDERED IF NATANAEL HIMSELF WROTE IT, AND IF NOT WHO DID) TO BUTTRESS APPROACH.

C. NATANAEL REPORTED INCREASING UNREST AMONG KATANGANS INSIDE ZAIRE OVER MOBUTU' S NEW TIES WITH PRC AND GROWING PRESENCE WITHIN ZAIRE OF RED CHINESE PERSONNEL (GOVGEN COMMENTED WHEREAS TANZANIANS SEEM TO GET ALONG WITH CHINESE, ZAIRIANS HAVE STRONG RACIAL AVERSION TO ORIENTALS). NATANAEL REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR 20,000 OF HIS FOLLOWERS IN ZAIRE TO JOIN NUCLEUS OF 3,000 WHO HAVE CAMPED NEAR LUSO, ANGOLA SINCE TSCHOMBE DAYS, TO PLAN HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.

D. GOVGEN TURNED ASIDE REQUEST ON GROUNDS ANGOLA COULD NOT AT THIS POINT ABSORB SO MANY KATANGANS.

3. GOVGEN COMMENTED TO US THAT KATANGANS NEAR LUSCO HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME AT TIMES, MOSTLY BECAUSE OF FRICTION WITH LOCAL INHABITANTS OVER WOMEN. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THEY REMAIN A FAIRLY COMPETENT FIGHTING FORCE, AND RECRUIT YOUNGSTERS FOR RANKS FROM WITHIN ZAIRE. GOVGEN SAID HE IMPRESSED BY ABILITY OF KATGENS IN LUSO TO OBTAIN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IN ZAIRE. GOVGEN THEN INVITED OUR COMMENTS.

4. GARIN SAID HE WAS REMINDED OF RAID ON KATANGA FROM ANGOLA BY TWENTY EUROPEAN MERCENARIES VIA BICYCLE IN FALL 1967. UNDERSEC KATZENBACH (WHOSE NAME HE HAD TROUBLE REMEMBERING) HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT CT, AND HAD ACTUALLY SEEMED TO TAKE " THIS RIDICULOUS AFFAIR" SERIOUSLY. GARIN IMPLIED HE HAD NOT.

5. UNDAUNTED BY GARIN' S REPLY, GOVGEN PRESSED ME FOR VIEWS. I LIMITED MYSELF TO OBSERVING THAT IT SEEMED AT LEAST UNTIL LAST YEAR THAT MOBUTU HAD PLACED SOME VALUE ON PRESERVING RELATIVELY GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. EVERYTHING GOVGEN HAD SAID ABOUT THE KATGENS WAS NEWS TO ME; IT WAS THE FIRST I HAD HEARD OF GROWING CHINESE PRESENCE OR RESULTING UNREST IN ZAIRE. I AGREED WITH GOV-
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GEN THAT IT SEEMED ANGOLA HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY WITHOUT
ADDING 20,000 NEW ONES.

6. COMMENT: GARIN' S PRESENCE OBVIOUSLY MERELY COINCIDENTAL:
GOVGEN PRESUMABLY WANTED TO MAKE SURE I ABSORBED (AND REPORTED)
HIS STORY. ASSUME HE HOPES REPORT WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH MOBUTU,
AND BE READ AS VEILED THREAT OF POSSIBLE RETALIATION SHOULD
UPA- MPLA UNION UNDER MOBUTU' S AEGIS BEGIN TO CAUSE PORTUGUESE
PAIN.
BRIGGS

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